

REMARKS

Pursuant to the Examiner's present election/restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute **Group I**, Claims 13-19 and 43-54. Applicants submit that Claims 13-19 and 43-54 encompass the elected invention, but reserve their right to amend-in additional unelected groups/claims upon the finding of a generic claim encompassing same, as addressed *infra*.

Although the foregoing election/restriction is made to facilitate prosecution of the present application, Applicants are unable to determine the propriety of Examiner's present restriction requirement. To that extent, the present election/restriction is made *with traverse*. Specifically, and inasmuch as the Examiner has classified each proposed Groups in identical classes and identical sub-classes, the Examiner has admittedly failed to demonstrate any serious burden in examining all said proposed Groups. Accordingly, Examiner's mere conclusory statements¹ offered in support of the present restriction requirement are wholly inconsistent with the Examiner's own determination of group classification and, thus, the scope of the Examiner's search strategy.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, should the Examiner find any claim to be generic enough to encompass the unelected and claimed subject matter, Applicants respectfully reserve their right to amend the case to include same. Currently, Applicants submit that Claim 13 is such a generic claim.

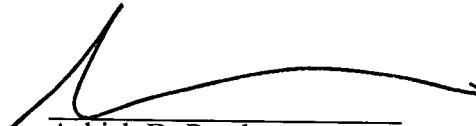
¹ E.g., "because the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter". (Detailed Action, paragraph 7, page 3).

CONCLUSION

Should there be any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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